

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL

June 1, 2021: 2:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting: ZoomGov

Meeting <https://dbhds.zoomgov.com/j/1600998172>

Meeting ID: 160 099 8172 Passcode: q9igN^FD

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Senator John Bell, CHAIR

Victor McKenzie, Jr., SECRETARY

Members Present:

John Bell, *Senator 13th District (Chair)*

Jennifer Boysko, *Senator, 33rd District*

Patrick Hope, *Delegate, 47th District*

Keith Hodges, *Delegate, 98th District*

Ashley Harrell

Marjorie Yates

Nathanial Rudney

Karen Dyer

Debby Taylor

Becky Bowers-Lanier

Angela Weight

Carole Pratt

Dr. Peter Breslin

Ke'Shawn Harper

Henry Harper

Allison Land

Jen Sayegh

Natale Christian

Art Mayer

Charlene Motley

Mark Cole

Charles Wilcox

Ed DeShields

Pattie Schneeman

Chandra Bandari

Jennifer Fidura

Katie Boyle

Jessica Lee

Sandy O'Dell

Molly Overstreet

Katie Crumble

Michael Zohab

Ron Pritchard

John Shinholzer
Victor McKenzie, Jr, *Executive Director Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia (Secretary)*

Council Members

Senator John J. Bell, Chair
Nathanael Rudney, Liaison
Karen Dyer, Executive Support, Commissioner's Office

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS John Bell, Senator

Attendance: We ask that each member share his/her role on the council and how long he/she has served

II. Review of Minutes for June 1, 2021 Meeting.....John Bell, Senator

- a. Senator Boysko made a motion to accept the minutes, Ron Pritchard seconded it; vote was unanimous

III. Points of Interest:

- a. \$500,000 was allocated by the General Assembly in the last session for Recovery (VARR) and \$10 million of COVID money, some for Naloxone to first responders. We are lacking some data due to COVID. There is a strong trend showing that Naloxone is saving lives, the decrease in overdoses is between 15 and 38%.

- b. Change on annual report – no go

IV. Old Business

- a. NONE

V. New Business

a. Overview of the budget passed during special session and impact on recovery services

- i. VARR Report: money allocated from the General Assembly – have a bed available to anyone who wants one, \$10 million also allocated from Special Session
- ii. These funds will be allocated based on bed spaces; some facilities are bigger than others, different niche/location
- iii. Delegate Hope: wants to make sure the money is being allocated to treatment programs and crisis at hand/prevention

- 1. What's the strategy for the money allocated now and future money that are going to be needed? Per Senator Bell, refer to Annual Report

- iv. Per Nathaniel, DBHDS received \$5 million for expanding Community SUD Services
- v. Allison Land w/DBHDS: two \$5 million blocks of money in supplemental block grants, both for SUD and MH
- vi. Senator Bell wants to make sure every county is part of the OD network so we're able to get to a person treated if there is an overdose. Also, have a comprehensive book that we can follow for treatment and prevention
- vii. Make sure all VARR's have audits
- viii. Ashley w/DMAS: 12.5% reimbursement rate increase for home and community-based services, which includes SUD and Peer Recovery Support

b. Bill Dudley, President, Dudley Strategies – Presentation on Sober Peer

- i. Presentation by Mark Coles (Slides/Presentation made available)
 - a. Why do some clients succeed and others fail? Sober Peer is a platform to help people succeed.
 - b. Main reason people fail is because they do not see professional help – need to make services more available
 - c. Recovery reimagined in Virginia
 - d. Full clinical and non-clinical platform
 - e. Provides Telehealth services
 - f. Social health component (adults, adolescents, and concerned parties)
 - g. Ability to shop for services
 - h. E-learning platform
 - i. Population management – ability to see all the stakeholders and what they are doing at different levels
 - j. Sober Peer will help a client all the way through treatment and well into aftercare and maintenance
 - k. They can track data from month to month
- ii. Follow-up from Senator Bell – this is something worth considering for diversion programs

iii. Senator Boysko: concerned about where all the data is going, how's it being stored, who has access to it; how do we know we'd be protecting the privacy of the client

1. Ed DeShields – they never sell the data, are HIPPA compliant. Providers and Re-entry programs have access to the data just for their population of people.

iv. Senator Boysko: any data breaches?

1. Never had a data breach

v. Delegate Hope: stated this is very intense program. Describe the ideal person who would benefit from this program and who would not benefit.

1. The person not good for it is the one who is not interested in getting better
2. Quibbled with the fact that it's very intense; there are people who only use parts of the program. They leave it up to the provider to decide how intense they want it to be per individual case.

vi. Delegate Hodges: how user-friendly is this program?

1. It is very user friendly. They provide online support.
2. They were contacted by a homeless shelter and found out that 75% of them have smartphones.

vii. Ron Pritchard: Can a licensed professional use this program without contacting a peer support specialist?

1. Mark explained that "Provider" could be a doctor, nurse, LPC, CPRS, etc., one on one, or as a group

viii. Charles Wilcox: Concerned with the word "Peer" in the title

1. They use the word Peer in the name as peers in the community who can support each other, providing a sense of belonging

ix. Allison Land: due to workforce shortage, the resources they provide could be a real benefit to the program

c. Jennifer Fidura, Executive Director, Virginia Network of Privat Providers, Inc (VNPP)

- i. Slides provided
- ii. She speaks on Barrier Crimes

- iii. Questions: Senator Boysko: Have you had conversations with other members who have been working on these issues and DLS attorneys?
 - 1. Has not talked to DLS attorneys. However, she has talked to Senator Bell. It has been talked about a lot in the advocacy community.
- iv. Debbie Taylor: Struggled with legislation for years. Has prevented us from hiring people in recovery. An all-out ban is unacceptable.
- v. Delegate Hope: We have a pool of people who are probably the most equipped to handle these situations and we can't hire them. There is a shortage, and our hands are tied.
- vi. Senator Bell: How would the Crime Commission view this?
 - 1. Jennifer: I can't guess. Hopes for significant changes.
- vii. Debbie Taylor: When this legislation was originally brought to the General Assembly, it was to protect the vulnerable individuals. No event was ever on record about anything happening.
- viii. Senator Boysko: Are you hoping that somebody is going to carry this piece in the 2022 session?
 - 1. Jennifer's hopeful.
- ix. Delegate Hope: We need to discuss this to see if the Counsel will support it as a recommendation to the General Assembly

VI. Next meeting is TBD, hoping the next meeting will be in person

VII. Public Comment:

- a. Michael McDermott: sent comments to Mr. Rudney and Ms. Dyer, 2-page document
 - i. Nathaniel will email his comments to the members
 - ii. Draft minutes: Stated Mr. McKenzie was not at June meeting
 - iii. Graft vs. Graph
 - iv. Last meeting, he submitted a 3-page document, which could have been made available to the person writing the minutes; that document could have been added as an addendum instead of being summarized in 4 lines.
 - v. Added link in letter for today's topics

vi. Please attach Mr. McDermott's document as an addendum (has not been made available to lindseyj@saara.org who is documenting the minutes).

vii. Motion to enter comments into record

1. Motion by Delegate Hope and seconded by Allison Land

2. All in favor, unanimous

b. Mike Zohab: defer his comments to next meeting

VIII. Motion to adjourn made by Senator Boysko, seconded by Delegate Hope

IX. Adjournment- 2:58 pm